

# SPARK



# PLUG

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## THE PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Our attendance record is steadily improving. I think all of us, pupils teachers alike deserve credit for this. Let me urge you to keep your attendance record high and to improve it. Our ambition should be to be at the top of the list of vocational high schools. Just now we are slightly above the average.

We are starting more clubs and teams than ever before. All of us will be glad that our new basketball team is promising very well and has shown up well in preliminary scrimmages. The fencing team has done very well also. All these activities need money, unfortunately. You must support these teams and clubs. All of us want these added activities; many of you are members of these teams and clubs. This is the reason why we are asking all students to make a G. O. dues payment in the Spring term. I am sure that we will have as good a response in the Spring term as we have had this term so that all our teams can continue operating.

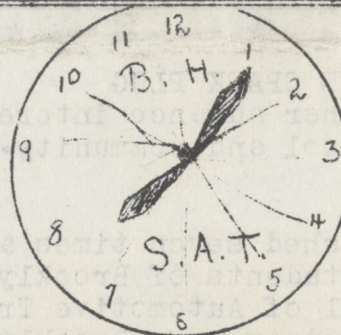
*Louis Auerbach*

LOUIS AUERBACH  
Principal

## HOW'S YOUR ATTENDANCE?

Have you ever noticed how much time and effort teachers devote to their roll books? They call roll for each class, check attendance sheets religiously, and seem to pore interminably over cut slips, attendance slips, yellow cards, and truant slips. Why is attendance so important?

In tenacious pursuit of an answer to this question, your reporter jockeyed the wooden bench in Room 160 for nearly a week trying to get an interview with Mr. Specker. Finally, in between the steady flow of tearful parents, sullen truants, and an incessant telephone, we



managed to cling to his coatsleeve long enough to get a rudimentary explanation.

Mr. Specker's job is that of supervision of attendance records. He sees to it that we get to school each day or provide a satisfactory excuse for each and every absence.

Mr. Specker explained that the Board of Education makes all attendance rules, and everyone has to comply with them. Moreover, the school is legally responsible for every attending student during school hours. Not just for his activities and behavior, but also for his whereabouts at all times. Thus, for example, if a boy is blamed for doing something during hours when he should have been in school and police are called into the matter, the school's attendance records will indicate if the particular boy checked in and checked out, if he attended all classes, and, if no cuts were recorded him for him for that particular day, where he was at any given period. Obviously, the detailed and laborious record-keeping serves to protect the student as well as to control him.

School records also survive long after we make them, and often haunt ruthlessly hapless characters who treat them indifferently. Mr. Specker pointed out that many employers, especially the Civil Service and the Armed Forces, carefully scrutinize attendance records.

When asked why we have "Check-out", Mr. Specker replied that it was begun in our school many years ago and we have kept it.

While the record-keeping involved in our attendance system may seem an arduous task, most of the teachers with whom we discussed it felt that the system is easily maintained. It is difficult only when dealing with absentees and late-comers. So, fellows, don't be absent and don't be late. A good attendance record is a credit to your school, your teacher, and ---most important---to yourself!

Ellis Rackoff, 5V22

Do you agree that a good newspaper need not be dull? Then help us enliven the SPARK PLUG.... Join our staff.



## THE SPARK PLUG

"To further advance interest in school and community."

Published seven times a year by the students of Brooklyn High School of Automotive Trades, 50 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn 22, N. Y.

MR. LOUIS AUERBACH, Principal.

## S T A F F

EDITORS - This Issue: Ellis Rackoff & Jacob Tabak

Reporters: James Carman, Frank Gagliardi, John Hoffler, Bill Istchenko, Benny Johnson, Jose Perez, Paul Stendardi, Harold Williams.

Faculty Advisor: Mr. Cedric Jackson.



MARCHING ALONG...

The Drum and Bugle Corps, under the direction of Mr. Seth Kelly, has resumed its outstanding role of representing our school. Last year they presented notable performances on such occasions as the Plymouth Trouble-Shooting Contest, The Greenpoint Little League parades, the Investiture of our Principal, the Music Festival at P. S. 49, and our Graduation Exercises.

Mr. Kelly hopes that this year will prove to be one of the most active and successful for the Corps.

Drum and Bugle Corps personnel this year includes: Buglers - Joe Agosto V18, John Bolden V13, C. Burgerette V18, Neil Connors V19, John Dagnese V11, John Grillo V15, Robert Marshall V1, Guy Pennisi V11, Detlef Rahe V23, A. Vecchiano V2, John Chelms V24, Angel Nieves V20, Santo Agosto V18, Art Armstrong V24, John Cancel V19, Robert Currence V24, Robert Catalan V20, J. Intericole V11,

Mario Parente V19, Al Pietanzo V24, John Strucker V14, Ronald Williams V4, Frank Natale V2, Phillip Romano V18, and Ron Thompson V10.

Drummers: S. Hewitt V11, Thos. Riles V20, Robert Winslow V19, Art Jackson V11, Don Phillips V4, William Tobin V2, Richard Quick V20, Stephen Watkins V22, Andy Trapasso V4, Mario Lopez V4, Pablo Rivera V4, Ralph Grosso V20, L. Thomas V11, Louis Tonani V2, J. Gildersleeve V5, Major Tinsley V4, E. Gilbert V21, and Julio Guzman V11.

---Neil Connors V19 and Detlef Rahe V23.



The SPARK PLUG is pleased to our school Mr. CHARLES COLE, who recently joined our Science Department.

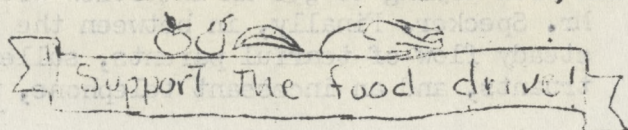
Mr. Cole is a graduate of Forest Hills H. S., Queens College, and attended medical school, but decided to become a teacher.

Mr. Cole taught at Forest Hills and Jamaica High Schools before coming to Automotive. He is impressed with our school and with the boys who attend it. As a science teacher, however, he would like to see a more inquisitive attitude among the fellows; he would like to hear intelligent questions about the rapidly changing and expanding world of science and nature.

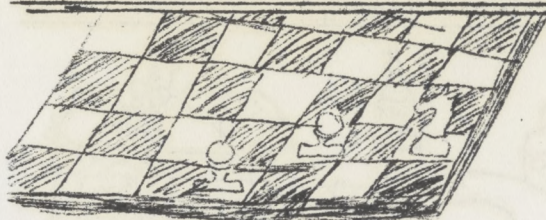
Mr. Cole is very fond of athletics, especially hiking and camping, and would like to see a hiking club at Automotive. He played baseball and basketball in high school and in college. At Queens College he was Captain of the track team for two years.

The SPARK PLUG urges every boy fortunate enough to be in Mr. Cole's classes to seize the abundant and timely knowledge his tutelage embraces.

---Ellis Rackoff, V22







## CHESS CLUB NOTES

Bob Craddock, Automotive Chess Club representative in the Metropolitan Interscholastic Chess Tournament, began a 12 game set, Saturday, October 28th. If Bob is successful he will have a try for the \$250.00 First Prize. Unfortunately, in his first game, Craddock made a bad move which cost him the game. He promises, though, to acquit himself more nobly in the 11 remaining contests.

The Chess Club may not be the largest in the school, but it is certainly is one of the fastest growing. Since organizing in September, the Chess Club has acquired 36 members, all in good standing. These students pay 50 cents each in order to purchase sets and boards, and to pay assessments for representation in the interscholastic league.

Top players in the Club are:

Craddock, V7 Bassenir, V4 Edwards, V7

The rest of the roster consists of the following students, listed in alphabetical order:

Barbera, V4	Horton, V3
Bass, V6	Hurlburt, V1
Bessey, V4	Litko, V8
Brown, V2	Mahon, V4
Barcy, V7	Masterson, V23
Condon, V1	Mannino, V30
Cote, V30	Morra, V7
D'Amato, V27	Mattellone, V2
Dopilka, V1	Natale, V2
Giordano, V1	Patterson, V8
Fedoryszyn, V1	Ricci, V1
	Rivera, V23
Bell, V4	Smith, V13
Langone, V1	Spitale, V7
Seabrook, V7	Sanders, V2
McNichols, V1	William, V8
	Ozga, V1

This is an impressive array of talent and intellect. Think you can beat them? C'mon up, Room 262, 4th period.

---Bob Bassenir, V4

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## CLASS ELECTIONS HELD

On Tuesday, October 30th, one week before the national and state elections, class elections were held at Automotive.

The following students were elected to the positions indicated.

V1 President: Alan Figueroa  
 Vice-Pres: Michael Prisco  
 Secretary: Donald Tucker  
 V2 President: Thomas Werner  
 Vice-Pres: James McCauley  
 Secretary: John Schell  
 V3 President: James Bradford  
 Vice-Pres: Anthony Ortiz  
 Secretary: George Tompkins  
 V4 President: Mario Lopez  
 Vice-Pres: Albert Minutello  
 Secretary: Z. Zrebiac



V5 President: Joseph Gillislee  
 Vice-Pres: Gerard Cugini  
 Secretary: Dennis Leahy  
 V6 President: Louis King  
 Vice-Pres: Charles Vicich  
 Secretary: Jorge Rodriguez  
 V7 President: Lawrence Wilson  
 Vice-Pres: Albert Ephraim  
 Secretary: Alphonse Fiocler  
 V8 President: Jethro Jacobs  
 Vice-Pres: Joseph Covello  
 Secretary: Thomas Mc Clenon  
 V9 President: Joseph Cataldo  
 Vice-Pres: Arnold Heggs  
 Secretary: Jose Alejandro  
 V10 President: Lawrence McManus  
 Vice-Pres: Giuliano Darbe  
 Secretary: John Ballerini  
 V11 President: James Kaeser  
 Vice-Pres: L. Thomas  
 Secretary: James Lahain  
 V12 President: Juan Kopascka  
 Vice-Pres: Leon Nixon  
 Secretary: Gary Delalla  
 V13 President: Anninas Philip  
 Vice-Pres: Miguel Guadalupe  
 Secretary: Peter Micheletti  
 V14 President: Paul Stendardi  
 Vice-Pres: Paul Mc Lauchlin  
 Secretary: Robert Goldenberg  
 V15 President: Christopher Mahoney  
 Vice-Pres: Thomas Kasai  
 Secretary: Robert Schoenberg  
 V16 President: Victor Garaccio  
 Vice-Pres: John Ippolito  
 Secretary: Frank Feeney  
 V17 President: Henry Carter  
 Vice-Pres: Rennai Anderson  
 Secretary: Fred Cutrone  
 V18 President: Herbert Reinhard  
 Vice-Pres: Robert Luckey  
 Secretary: Norman Garrett  
 V19 President: Carl Lewis  
 Vice-Pres: Robert Gonzalez  
 Secretary: Salvatore Ardizzone  
 V20 President: Thomas Riles  
 Vice-Pres: Lynwood Davis  
 Secretary: Harry Isaac  
 V21 President: James Coachman  
 Vice-Pres: William Rice  
 Secretary: Walter Jones  
 V22 President: Carlos Zicchinelli  
 Vice-Pres: Joseph De Pante  
 Secretary: Raul Almeda  
 V23 President: Willie Clifton  
 Vice-Pres: George Grimes  
 Secretary: Ramon Lopez  
 V24 President: Wallace Hewitt  
 Vice-Pres: Oliver Spann  
 Secretary: Louis Smith  
 V25 President: John Chalmus  
 Vice-Pres: Fred Williams  
 Secretary: Charles Williams  
 V26 President: Genero Bonilla  
 Vice-Pres: Ronney Nealey  
 Secretary: Michael Stephens

(Continued on Page 1)



(Cont'd from page 3)

- 7V26 President: Richard Mirrione  
 Vice-Pres: Robert King  
 Secretary: Vincent Mondano  
 7V28 President: Charles Kennedy  
 Vice-Pres: Clarence Herring  
 Secretary: Larry Woods  
 7V29 President: Leonard Sirago  
 Vice-Pres: Dennis Sien  
 Secretary: Hector Claudio  
 8V30 President: Allan Hollenberg  
 Vice-Pres: Charles Jones  
 Secretary: Richard Maney

The SPARK PLUG congratulates these gentlemen on their elevation to the offices indicated. May your respective political careers encounter nothing but progress and success.

----Ellis Rackoff, 5V22

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#### THE WELCOME MAT

The SPARK PLUG welcomes MR. MEYER STEINHURST. Mr. Steinhurst is no newcomer to Automotive, having served here more than 10 years ago as an instructor in the Coast Guard unit associated with the school at that time. Since the departure of the Coast Guard group, Mr. Steinhurst has been teaching at various high schools and Junior High Schools around the City.

Mr. Steinhurst is "delighted" to return to Automotive. He finds that the boys haven't changed much, but is "amazed" at the way the physical plant of the school has kept pace with modern technology. This fact, he insists, presents the students with truly golden opportunities to prepare themselves appropriately for the manifold opportunities for prosperous and exciting careers.

Mr. Steinhurst teaches Related Technical subjects.

----Jacob Tabak, 8V30

#### TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR TEENERS

1. Stop and think before you smoke.
2. Don't let your parents down; they brought you up.
3. Be humble and obedient; you may give orders yourself someday.
4. Remember: Experience is a dear school, but fools will learn from no other.
5. Don't show off behind the steering wheel. If you want to race, go to Indianapolis.
6. Choose a date who would make a good mate.
7. Education is not a consequence of experience but a sequence of it.
8. Choose your companions carefully. Association engenders assimilation.
9. Avoid following the crowd. Be an engine, not a caboose.
10. Better still, keep the original Ten Commandments.

----Paul Stendardi, VII4



DON'T BE GREEDY...HELP THE NEEDY!!

On December 13th, Automotive will undertake for approximately the 17th time its annual Christmas Food Drive. Under the enthusiastic direction of Mr. Bernstein, this Annual Drive has become one of the most popular and successful yearly events in the school. Nevertheless, it is hoped that this year will top all others, and that the front lobby will be a virtual cornucopia.

No matter how humble your own circumstances, no boy can afford not to donate. Give up smoking for a day or a week, or deny yourself sweets in order to contribute to the Drive. Your donations are turned over to Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant agencies by Mr. Bernstein for distribution among needy families.

Remember---you may donate both food and money!

----Peter De Santis, 8V30

#### 100% G. O. Classes

This term's 100% G. O. classes are:

1V1 - 40 students - Dr. Giannotta.	
3V4 - 34	" - Mr. Hayden
3V5 - 35	" - Mr. Labella
3V16 - 38	" - Mr. Holub
3V11 - 39	" - Mr. Greenberg
5V17 - 40	" - Mr. Sharkey
5V18 - 39	" - Mr. Peck
5V22 - 38	" - Mr. Fonaroff
7V27 - 42	" - Mr. Rodgers
7V28 - 44	" - Mr. Lecesse

---Paul Stendardi, VI4

#### HOW WELL DO YOU READ ?

After reading this issue of the SPARK PLUG, take the test below. Encircle your choice.

1. Attendance at Automotive is steadily (improving, declining)
2. Our attendance is now (above, below, same as) the Voc. H.S. avg.
3. To pursue tenaciously means to (avoid, persist, forget it).
4. An incessant telephone is one (out of order, never rings, rings constantly).
5. A rudimentary explanation is (wrong, complicated, elementary).
6. An arduous task is (easy, hard)
7. Inquisitive means (cheap, hungry, questioning).
8. To acquit is to (free, eat, pay)
9. A sequence is a (check, part, hat)
10. To scrutinize is to (study, say).





The new books listed below are now available in the school library.

You Have to Pay the Price.

By Earl H. Blaik & Tim Cohane.

The Boy's Book of Medical Science.

By L. R. Celestin. New York, 1960.

Science Puzzles. By Martin Gardner.

Viking Press. New York, 1960.

The Boy's Book of Buses of the World.

By Ernest F. Carter. New York.

One Man and His Dog. By Anthony

Richardson. E. P. Dutton. 1960.

The Complete Book of Hot Rodding.

By Robert E. Peterson and the Editors of Hot Rod Magazine. 1959.

The O. S. S. and I. By W. J. Morgan

The Ballou Press. 1960.

Conqueror of Small Pox. By Edward

Jenner. Julian Messner. 1960.

Discoverer of the North Pole.

By Peary Stafford. 1959.

The Long Flight. By D. A. Rayner.

Henry Holt, New York. 1960.

A History of the Western World.

By F. C. Cheney. 1959.

Other new acquisitions by the library will be listed in this space in the next issue of the SPARK PLUG. We urge you to utilize every opportunity to explore these books, all of which circulate.

---Eddie Denise, 8V30.

AN AFTERNOON WITH EDDIE FISHER

The SPARK PLUG received, a few weeks ago, an invitation from a New York City press relations firm to attend a reception tendered the scholastic press by none other than Eddie Fisher. At the time, Mr. Fisher was appearing in his own show at the Wintergarden Theater, where the Press Conference was to be held.

When they learned that Juliet Prowse was not joining Eddie for the occasion, all of our other reporters rejected the assignment. Yours truly, however, had an RY quiz scheduled for the same afternoon, so I grabbed the opportunity.

At approximately 4 P. M. I found the Wintergarden lobby crowded crowded with excited, chattering students, quite a few of them were girls, all from the papers of other schools.



Eddie...

Shortly after my arrival a man approached the gathering and began checking our credentials. We were then admitted to theater and seated in the orchestra. After we were seated, two men began distributing copies of Playbill, all of which bore the title, "Eddie Fisher at the Wintergarden". Then strode across the stage a very debonair young man, flawlessly attired in a superbly tailored black sports jacket, a maroon-colored turtle neck shirt, gray flannel slacks, and gleaming brown moccasins. I knew from the professional aplomb, the sartorial perfection, and from the fervent applause that here was Eddie Fisher.

After casually relaxing us with a pair of jokes, Eddie invited our questions. Someone asked a background query about his early show business. We learned that Eddie's career began in Philadelphia, his native city, and that it originated in his competing in amateur shows. By the time he was in High school, Eddie was singing in a regularly scheduled radio program. After graduation, he sang with the Buddy Morrow and Charlie Ventura orchestras. Eddie was also employed for a while at the old Paramount here in New York as an organ singer. His big break came on Labor Day, 1949. He was singing for a holiday crowd at Grossinger's Country Club at the time. Eddie Cantor, who was also appearing there in a benefit show, heard Eddie and invited him to join a national tour. After that, Eddie Fisher was big time.

One serious student of world affairs inquired as to what Mr. Fisher thought of the Cuban situation, and was advised that President Kennedy's approach has Mr. Fisher's assent and support.

Eddie revealed that his own theatrical favorites are Judy Garland, Sammy Davis, Jr., and Frank Sinatra. His own plans are to continue singing, and, perhaps, to appear again on Broadway. He has no desire to undertake a TV program of his own, but will accept occasional guest spots. After a brilliant rendition of "What Kind of A Fool Am I?", Eddie wished us all well and terminated the interview.

I had attended the session with the intent---and the instructions---to ask Eddie what kind of car he drives, but I just couldn't muster the courage to raise the question.

---Jacob Tabak, 8V30



Rich millionaire: "Do you desire to become my daughter's husband?"

Honest Mechanic: "No sir; I desire to become your son-in-law."

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Two boys from Automotive were riding a crowded GG train and seated together. One of them noticed that the other had his eyes closed.

"What's the matter, Ben?", asked Mechanic, "feeling ill?"

"I'm all right," answered Ben, "but I hate to see ladies standing."

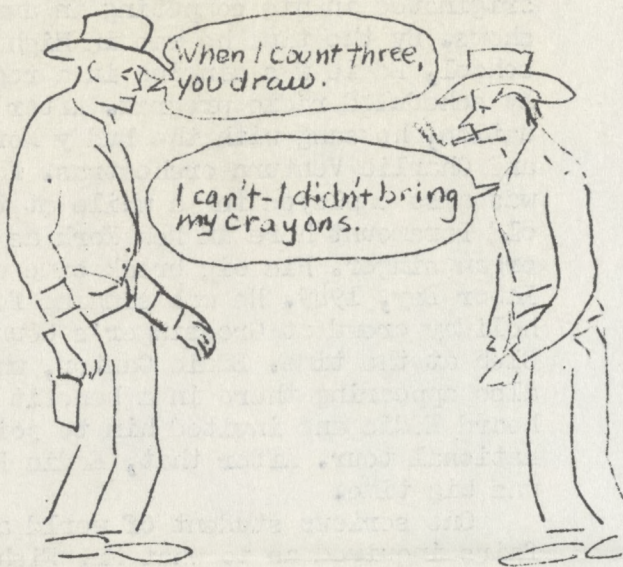
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"Autumn is so lovely!  
A splash of yellow here, a  
splash of red there,  
A splash...."



That's not wind you  
hear in the morning,  
that's mother's and  
father's yawning.  
\*\*\* \*\*



"I just wanted to correct  
your grammar, sir. It's  
those wise guys, not them  
wise guys."



"Darling, he just sang his  
first advertising jingle!"



"After you find  
out why the sky is  
blue, I'd like to know  
why the stars twinkle,  
then....."

CRJ